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Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LA PAZ 09690 072139Z
15
ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 EUR-12 ACDA-07 MC-02 AID-05
IGA-02 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03
OMB-01 EB-07 /079 W
---------- 033056
R 061950Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3369
INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
SECDEF WASHDC
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 9690

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS OTRA
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE VISIT TO THE US OF PERUVIAN ARMY CHIEF
OF STAFF PEDRO RICHTER PRADA

REF: LIMA 10856

1. I RECOMMEND THAT THE PROPOSED VISIT OF THE PERUSIAN ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF BE CONSIDERED IN THE BROADEST POSSIBLE REGIONAL CONTEXT AND THAT ITS IMPACT ON BOLIVIA BE AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF THAT CONSIDERATION. FROM HERE IN BOLIVIA I CAN FORESEE THAT THE VISIT WILL CAUSE MISUNDERSTANDING AND POSSIBLE IRRITATIONS.

2. MY MAJOR CONCERN IS THAT THE VISIT WOULD INDICATE THAT THE US IS PREPARED TO JOIN IN THE ARMS RACE AND IS WILLING TO SELL ADDITIONAL ARMS TO PERU. IT TENDS TO SUGGEST THAT WE ARE NOT CONCERNED ABOUT THE PERUVIAN-CHILEAN ARMS RACE AND THAT WE HAVE NO WORRIES ABOUT THE SOVIET AIRCRAFT SALES TO PERU. IN ADDITION, THE TIMING OF THE VISIT TENDS TO SUGGEST THAT THE US POLICY ACCEPTS THE VALIDITY OF THE PERUVIAN COUNTERPROPOSAL TO THE CHILEAN OFFER OF AN ACCESS TO THE SEA. SINCE THE PRESENT STATE OF NEGOTIATIONS ON THE ACCESS IS AT A VIRTUAL IMPASSE, A PARTIAL ENDORSEMENT OF THE
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PAGE 02 LA PAZ 09690 072139Z

PERUVIAN POSITION WOULD BE CONSIDERED WITH DISMAY BY THE

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

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BOLIVIANS.

3. WHILE FROM A STRICTLY BILATERAL POINT OF VIEW THE VISIT MAY BE SEEN AS USEFUL IN THE US-PERUVIAN CONTEXT, I FEAR THAT THE PERUVIANS WILL PROBABLY DESCRIBE THE VISIT AS CLARIFYING THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE WORLD AND CONFIRM THEIR VIEW THAT THEY CAN MAINTAIN CLOSE RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS, INCLUDING PURCHASING SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS FROM THEM, AND ALSO BE ABLE TO BALANCE OFF THE US. IN EFFECT, IT SETS AN EXAMPLE FOR A COUNTRY'S CONDUCT WHICH WE DO NOT WISH THE BOLIVIANS TO EMULATE.

4. IN SUM, I THINK SUCH AN IMPORTANT VISIT WILL BE A CAUSE OF FRICTION AND POTENTIAL PROBLEMS FOR US IN BOLIVIA. WE HAVE NOT YET FULLY DIGESTED THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE VISIT OF THE TWO US MAJOR GENERALS TO PERU. WE WOULD APPRECITE BEING KEPT INFORMED ABOUT THE POSSIBLE VISIT TO THE US BY THE PERUVIAN ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF AND PROVIDED SUITABLE GUIDANCE WELL IN ADVANCE IF, IN SPITE OF THE ADVERSE IMPACT ON BOLIVIA, THE VISIT WERE APPROVED.
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TAGS: MASS, OTRA
To: SECSTATE WASHDC LIMA QUITO SANTIAGO WASHDC USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ
Type: TE
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